

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00

ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04

SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-10 INT-05

JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSF-02 OES-09 OMB-01 PA-02

PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 /130 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2957

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 03281

FROM LOSDEL

H FOR SENATOR CASE FROM AMBASSADOR ELLIOT RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS - DEEP SEABED MINING LEGISLATION (S.2053)

DEAR SENATOR CASE:

I WAS PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO TALK TO YOU TODAY ABOUT THE DEEP SEABED MINING LEGISLATION (S.2053). BEFORE IT IS MARKED UP BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS TOMORROW, I WOULD LIKE TO AMPLIFY MY VIEWS AND THOSE OF THE ADMINISTRATION ON THIS LEGISLATION.

WHILE THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE DID MAKE PROGRESS IN GENEVA, IT IS HIGHLY UNCERTAIN WHEN . OR WHETHER AN ACCEPTABLE TREATY WILL BE SIGNED. IT IS CLEAR, IN ANY CASE, THAT SEVERAL YEARS WILL PASS AFTER THE TREATY IS SIGNED BEFORE IT ENTERS INTO FORCE, AND D ADDITIONAL TIME WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL : SEABED AUTHORITY TO PROMULGATE ITS RULES AND REGULATIONS *

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AND FINALLY APPROVE CONTRACTS.

IN THE MEANTIME, THERE IS A VERY REAL RISK THAT AMERICAN OCEAN MINING COMPANIES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN THEIR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS UNDER THESE HIGHLY UNCERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. IN MY JUDGMENT, MOREOVER, THE CERTAIN PROSPECT OF DEEP SEA MINING WILL HELP TO STRENGTHEN THE

SPIRIT OF REALITY AND COMPROMISE WHICH HAS RECENTLY Y
CHARACTERIZED THE LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATIONS.

ALTHOUGH IT IS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THERE WILL BE SOME
ADVERSE REACTIONS AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE TO THE
ONLY THAT IT IS IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST FOR S.2053 TO BE
ENACTED INTO LAW AT THIS SESSION OF THE CONGRESS BUT THAT
THIS WILL ALSO ADVANCE THE INTEREST OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY
IN THE EARLIEST PRACTICABLE FULFILLMENT OF THE COMMON
HERITAGE.

AT THE SAME TIME, I MUST EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE WHICH
THE ADMINISTRATION ATTACHES TO A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO
S.2053 THAT WE BELIEVE WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE
BILL FROM THE STANDPOINT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.
THE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEES MADE SUBSTANTIAL
IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BILL, BUT THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES
THAT THE FURTHER AMENDMENTS SET OUT IN MY TESTIMONY OF
AUGUST 17 BEFORE THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ARE
NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH A SOUND SEABED MINING PROGRAM FOR
THE UNITED STATES.

I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT YOU WILL AGREE THAT PASSAGE AND
ENACTMENT OF S.2053 BY THE 95TH CONGRESS SERVE THE
NATIONAL INTEREST AND THAT AS A MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN
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RELATIONS COMMITTEE YOU WILL LEND YOUR SUPPORT TO THIS
END.

IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS I WOULD BE PLEASED TO
DISCUSS THEM WITH YOU. I MAY BE REACHED IN NEW YORK AT
THE FOLLOWING NUMBER: (212) 826-5791.

WITH WARM REGARD, SINCERELY, ELLIOT.

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Message Attributes

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